

Abstract of the Disclosure

[0071] A ground fault interrupter apparatus is provided that employs a switching device that is operated in two stages. The first stage operates a solenoid in order to close the contacts and preferably provides coupling between the load and the power source. The second stage maintains the coupling, however, drawing less current and power from the internal devices of the apparatus. Accordingly, the fault interrupter meets various standards for the time required to open and close the contacts as well as keeping the dissipated heat from the device within the required range.